

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment and reconsideration of the claims. Claims 1, 6-8, and 10-11 have been amended to further clarify the claimed invention. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3. Claims 6-8 and 10-11 have been amended to method claim format. The composition recited in the method claims is limited to the composition of claim 1. Claims 1, 4-8, 10-11 and 14 will be pending upon entry of the amendment.

Claim 14 is newly added. Support for the new claim is found in the specification at least at page 12, lines 3-6 and lines 18-20 of the specification. Applicant submits that no new matter is added by the amended claims or the new claim.

For the reasons given below, Applicants submit that the amended and newly presented claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

On March 28, 2007 and March 30, 2007, Applicants representative Eric DeMaster and Examiner Anderson discussed the Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment by telephone. The amendments to the method claims shown in the current Listing of Claims provided at pages 2 and 3 were discussed. Applicants thank the Examiner for the opportunity to discuss the application.

It is Applicants' understanding that they were given 30 days from the mailing of the Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment to respond to the Notice, the 30 day period for reply ending on April 18, 2007. To the extent an extension of time may be required, please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Request for Rejoinder

In the Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment mailed March 19, 2007, the Examiner alleges method claims 6-8, 10-11, and 14-16 do not read on the elected invention. Following the amendment, the composition recited in the method claims is limited to the composition of claim 1. Method claims 6-8, 10-11, and 14-16 are therefore linked to the elected composition of claim

1. Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 6-8, 10-11, and 14-16 under MPEP § 821.04(b) upon the allowability of claim 1. Applicants note the Examiner indicated claim 1 would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 3 and submit claim 1 as amended is allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 4-8 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,578,641. Without acquiescing to the rejection and solely for the purpose of advancing prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to now include the limitations of claims 1-3. The Examiner stated in the current Office Action that claim 3 would be allowable. Accordingly, claim 1 should now be allowable. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claim 1 prior to amendment, as well as the cancelled subject matter of claims 2 and 3, in a continuation application. Claims 4-5 depend from amended claim 1, and therefore also recite allowable subject matter.

Claims 6-8 and 10-11 have been amended to an appropriate method format. Support for these amendments is disclosed at least at page 12, lines 3-6 and lines 18-20 of the specification.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference neither teaches nor suggests the presently claimed invention. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Objections

Claim 3 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would otherwise be allowed. Applicants have now amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claims 1-3. Therefore, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

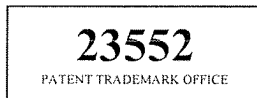
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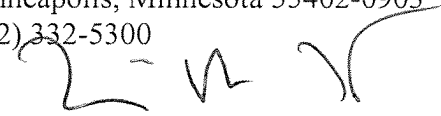
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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